

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3642
ANSWERED ON:27.04.2007
DEVELOPMENT IN THE FIELD OF SCIENCE TECHNOLOGY
Gehlot Shri Thaawar Chand

Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has initiated any action plan for development of Science and Technology;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government is aware that there has been a decline in the number of students who took admission in basic science education;
- (d) if so, the number of students who took admission in science education during the last three years; and
- (e) the action taken/being taken by the Government to increase the admission rate of students to science education and to check brain-drain?

Answer

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF EARTH SCIENCES (KAPIL SIBAL)

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Department of Science and Technology has plans to enable the science, technology and innovation to help the country have more inclusive growth. It has been planned to synergize efforts to increase the talent supply chain for science and engineering. DST is developing a suitable mechanism and structure for monitoring in real time frame, the outputs and outcomes of S&T and measurements of proportion of technology-led growth of GDP of India. It has been planned that a certain percentage of R&D support be directed towards coordinated programmes involving multiple agencies and disciplines with super ordinate goals and targets. There are plans to launch joint programmes on development of S&T with growth related sectors such as Textiles, Energy, Drug and Pharma, ICT etc. DST will prepare proactively the S&T system in the country in some selected domain areas which are most suited for public-private partnership. It has also been planned to take initiatives to design and develop low cost solutions for domestic use of technologies for safe drinking water, to attract and foster talent in scientific research, to develop an innovation infrastructure to link knowledge products to the generation of wealth, to initiate S&T for security of the country, and develop mega facilities for basic research in science.

(c) & (d): According to the 'India Science Report' a study conducted by the National Council of Applied Economic Research (NCAER) on behalf of the Indian National Science Academy, in the year 2005, the proportion of students studying science rose from 31% in 2000-01 to 34.6% in 2003-04. A total of 9.84 million students enrolled at graduate plus level in 2004. The study shows that there is no decline of interest in the proportion of students who wish to study science. However, there are areas of concern such as that some students do not feel motivated enough to study science, large size of class and lack of teaching equipment available with the institutions. The teachers require proper re-training and there is a need for simplification of the course content.

(e) To further motivate and enthuse students to take up science, the Govt. is planning to initiate a new programme under the title Innovations in Science Pursuit for Inspired Research (INSPIRE) to attract and foster talent in scientific research. During the XIth Five Year Plan, it has also been planned to start a new programme commencing at the pre-university stage to tap and retain bright students in science streams during their BSc/MSc programmes. It is proposed to have 10,000 fellowships of Rs. 1,00,000 per year. This will generate young scientists of class and will enable India to embark on wealth creation through IPR generation. The Govt. is already continuing a programme titled 'Kishore Vaigyanik Protsahan Yojana (KVPY) to select students with a research bent of mind and motivate them through suitable scholarships and other incentives to pursue a research career in sciences, engineering and medicine.'